

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for purifying or capturing a non-immunoglobulin protein of interest having between one and ten immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains from a biological fluid, comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting the biological fluid containing the protein of interest with an Hydrophobic Charge Chromatography (HCIC) resin,
 - b) washing out the resin to remove unbound contaminants,
 - c) eluting the protein of interest by treating the resin with a solution having an acidic pH or with a solution comprising an organic solvent.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the HCIC resin used in step a) ~~is MEP-HyperCel~~ comprises a mercapto-ethyl pyridine ligand.
3. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the organic solvent used in step c) is propylene glycol.
4. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of propylene glycol in the solution is between about 25 and 50%.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein step a) is carried out at acidic pH.
6. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 5, wherein the pH used is between about 3 and 6.8.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the washing of step b) is carried out with a solution having an acidic pH.
8. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 7, wherein the pH used is between about 3 and 6.8.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the biological fluid is selected from a cell-conditioned culture medium, cell lysate, cell extract, tissue extract, blood plasma, serum, milk, urine,

ascites, cerebrospinal fluid, vegetable juice, plant extracts or a fraction derived from an earlier chromatographic separation step.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein of interest has 1 to 7 Ig-like domains.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is selected from IL-18BP, NCAM, Fibronectin type III, ICAM-1, mad CAM-1, PE CAM-1, VCAM-1, titin, cadherin, neurocan, LIFR, CNTFR, IL-1R, IL-3R, IL5R, IL-6R, IL-12R, GM-CSFR, OSMR, VEGF receptor, FGF receptor, hPDGF receptor, T cell receptor, MHC proteins, microglobulin- β , CTLA4, B7 activation agent, neuregulin, coagulation factor XIII, NF-kB, IL6-IL6R, beta-galactosidase and superoxide dismutase or an isoform, mutein, fused protein, functional derivative or fragment thereof comprising at least one Ig-like domain.
12. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is IL-18 binding protein (IL-18BP).
13. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is IL6-IL6R chimera.
14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is beta galactosidase.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the purification factor of the eluted protein is in the range of 11 and 94 fold.
16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein the purification factor of the eluted protein is about 94 fold.
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the concentration factor of the eluted protein is in the range of 1.5 and 3.1 fold.
18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 17, wherein the concentration factor of the eluted protein is about 3.1 fold.
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of claims 1-18~~ claim 1, wherein the yield of the eluted protein is in the range of 73 and 98%,
20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 19, wherein the yield of the eluted protein is about 85%.

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42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A purified protein preparation ~~according to claim 41,~~
comprising a non-immunoglobulin protein of interest having between 1 and 10
immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains, purified or captured from a biological fluid
by the method according to claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is selected from
the group consisting of IL-18BP, NCAM, Fibronectin type III, ICAM-1, mad CAM-
 1, PE CAM-1, VCAM-1, titin, cadherin, neurocan, LIFR, CNTFR, IL-1R, IL-3R,
 IL5R, IL-6R, IL-12R, GM-CSFR, OSMR, VEGF receptor, FGF receptor, hPDGF
 receptor, T cell receptor, MHC proteins, microglobulin- β , CTLA4, B7 activation
 agent, neuregulin, coagulation factor XIII, NF-kB, IL6-IL6R, beta-galactosidase

and superoxide dismutase or an isoform, mutein, fused protein, functional derivative or fragment thereof comprising at least one Ig-like domain.

43. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is IL-18BP.
44. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is IL6-IL6R.
45. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is beta galactosidase.